

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An exhaust gas purification apparatus comprising:
a casing;
a honeycomb-like filter accommodated in the casing and comprising a porous silicon carbide sinter carrying an exhaust gas purification catalyst, the honeycomb-like filter being configured to remove particulates in an exhaust gas; ~~[[and]]~~
a regeneration device configured to cause the honeycomb-like filter to be preheated with heat of the exhaust gas before regenerating the honeycomb-like filter; and
a switch valve positioned downstream to the casing and configured to switch a flow of the exhaust gas,
wherein the regeneration device comprises a first temperature detector configured to detect a temperature in the casing, a second temperature detector configured to detect a temperature of the exhaust gas, and a processor configured to make a comparison of the temperature in the casing and the temperature of the exhaust gas, open the switch valve based on the comparison and preheat the honeycomb-like filter with the exhaust gas.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purification apparatus according to claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, wherein the switch valve comprises an electromagnetic valve.

6. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purification apparatus according to claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, wherein the first temperature detector comprises a thermocouple, the second

temperature detector comprises a thermocouple, and the processor comprises a CPU, a RAM and a ROM.

7. (Previously Presented) The exhaust gas purification apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a heating device configured to heat the honeycomb-like filter to remove the particulates deposited in the honeycomb-like filter.

8. (Previously Presented) The exhaust gas purification apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the heating device comprises an electric heater.

9. (Previously Presented) The exhaust gas purification apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a first pressure sensor configured to detect a backpressure value of the exhaust gas upstream to the honeycomb-like filter and a second pressure sensor configured to detect a backpressure value of the exhaust gas downstream to the honeycomb-like filter, wherein the regeneration device is configured to calculate a pressure loss based on the backpressure value of the exhaust gas upstream to the honeycomb-like filter and the backpressure value of the exhaust gas downstream to the honeycomb-like filter and to detect an amount of the particulates deposited in the honeycomb-like filter.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purification apparatus according to claim [[4]] 1, further comprising:
a second casing;

a second honeycomb-like filter accommodated in the second casing and comprising a porous silicon carbide sinter carrying an exhaust gas purification catalyst, the second honeycomb-like filter being configured to remove particulates in an exhaust gas;

a second switch valve positioned downstream to the second casing and configured to switch a flow of the exhaust gas,

wherein the regeneration device further comprises a third temperature detector configured to detect a temperature in the second casing, and the processor is configured to make a comparison of the temperature in the casing, the temperature in the second casing and the temperature of the exhaust gas, open the second switch valve based on the comparison and preheat the second honeycomb-like filter with the exhaust gas.

12. (Currently Amended) An exhaust gas purification apparatus comprising:

a casing;

a filter accommodated in the casing and configured to remove particulates in an exhaust gas; [[and]]

a regeneration device configured to cause the filter to be preheated with heat of the exhaust gas before regenerating the filter; and

a switch valve positioned downstream to the casing and configured to switch a flow of the exhaust gas,

wherein the regeneration device comprises a first temperature detector configured to detect a temperature in the casing, a second temperature detector configured to detect a temperature of the exhaust gas, and a processor configured to make a comparison of the temperature in the casing and the temperature of the exhaust gas, open the switch valve based on the comparison and preheat the filter with the exhaust gas.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purification apparatus according to claim [[13]] 12, wherein the switch valve comprises an electromagnetic valve.

15. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purification apparatus according to claim [[13]] 12, wherein the first temperature detector comprises a thermocouple, the second temperature detector comprises a thermocouple, and the processor comprises a CPU, a RAM and a ROM.

16. (Previously Presented) The exhaust gas purification apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising a heating device configured to heat the filter to remove the particulates deposited in the filter.

17. (Previously Presented) The exhaust gas purification apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the heating device comprises an electric heater.

18. (Previously Presented) The exhaust gas purification apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising a first pressure sensor configured to detect a backpressure value of the exhaust gas upstream to the filter and a second pressure sensor configured to detect a backpressure value of the exhaust gas downstream to the filter, wherein the regeneration device is configured to calculate a pressure loss based on the backpressure value of the exhaust gas upstream to the filter and the backpressure value of the exhaust gas downstream to the filter and to detect an amount of the particulates deposited in the filter.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purification apparatus according to claim [[13]] 12, further comprising:

a second casing;

a second filter accommodated in the second casing and configured to remove particulates in an exhaust gas;

a second switch valve positioned downstream to the second casing and configured to switch a flow of the exhaust gas,

wherein the regeneration device further comprises a third temperature detector configured to detect a temperature in the second casing, and the processor is configured to make a comparison of the temperature in the casing, the temperature in the second casing and the temperature of the exhaust gas, open the second switch valve based on the comparison and preheat the second filter with the exhaust gas.

21. (Currently Amended) An exhaust gas purification apparatus comprising:

a casing;

a filter accommodated in the casing and configured to remove particulates in an exhaust gas; and

regenerating means for regenerating the filter by heating the filter,

wherein the regenerating means preheats the filter with heat of the exhaust gas before regenerating the filter, and

the regenerating means includes heating means for heating the filter to remove the particulates deposited in the filter, switching means for switching a flow of the exhaust gas, first temperature detecting means for detecting a temperature in the casing, second

temperature detecting means for detecting a temperature of the exhaust gas, and processing means for making a comparison of the temperature in the casing and the temperature of the exhaust gas, operating the switching means based on the comparison and preheating the filter with the exhaust gas.

22. (Canceled)